

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please replace all prior claims versions and listings with the following:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (original) A method for orienting sections of a plasticized ceramic extrudate, comprising:

applying a reference mark to a plasticized extrudate as the extrudate exits an extrusion die onto an extrudate support;  
supporting the extrudate on the extrudate support;  
cutting the extrudate to form a cut section of the extrudate;  
correcting the orientation of the cut section of the extrudate in response to a reference mark misalignment and as the extrudate is supported by the extrudate support;  
transferring the cut section of the extrudate along a length of the extrudate support while preventing any orientation change of the cut section; and  
visually inspecting the orientation of the cut section of the extrudate.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the reference mark applying step comprises applying an ink jet mark to the extrudate.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the visually inspecting step comprises visually inspecting first and second ends of the extrudate.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

correcting for a corkscrew deformation of the extrudate by ~~adjusting a corkscrew correction assembly~~ contacting a surface of the extrudate with elastically deformable rollers having pivot axes aligned askew from an extrudate axis of movement along the extrudate support in a skew direction causing extrudate rotation counter to the corkscrew deformation in response to the visual inspection of the extrudate.

12. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of supporting the extrudate comprises supporting the extrudate on an air bearing.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the transferring step comprises transferring the cut section of the extrudate along a length of the extrudate support and thereafter to a dryer tray ~~between a first section of the extrudate support and a second section of the extrudate support, wherein the first and second sections of the extrudate are separated from the extrudate support one another.~~

Claims 14-19 (canceled).